

January 9, 2012

Dear Victim Rights Supporter:

The 2012 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon will be held this year on Friday, May 4, 2012. The awards program is designed to show appreciation and recognition to any individual, agency, organization or group who does meritorious work on behalf of crime victims or in furtherance of the crime victims' movement in Maryland. The award recognizes outstanding work done in the area of victim advocacy and services that exceeds expected work and exemplifies a high-level of commitment and dedication to the field of victims' rights and services and to the victims themselves. These awards cover the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Members of the State Board of Victim Services serving on the Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Committee will review the nominations and notify each of you with a final decision by early March 2012.

Please submit your nominations on the enclosed 2012 Nominations Cover Sheet Form. Each nomination must include the attached cover sheet, no more than a two page narrative detailing why the person or organization deserves to be recognized, and a summary of 75 words or less which will be read at the luncheon should your nominee be selected. As a reminder, vague or brief nominations may not provide the Awards Committee sufficient information to evaluate the nomination appropriately. Specific examples of the nominee's excellence, dedication, and commitment are encouraged. Please send ten (10) copies of the cover sheet, narrative and summary for the review committee. Nominations must be received by Friday, February 17, 2012.

Please forward this letter to fire departments, churches, hospitals, community centers and any other agency or organization in your local community that may have gone above and beyond for a victim of a crime this year.

It is our sincere hope that you will take the time to nominate those whom you feel should be recognized for their contributions and commitment to Maryland's crime victims. Since 1984, more than 1100 caring individuals and groups have been recognized. We hope that you will add a deserving name to the list.

Sincerely,

Debra Tall Chair, Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Committee

cc: Barbara Bond Kristen Mahoney Ed Parker Anne Litecky Nakita Long